(e) the measures to be taken Government to specially nullify its impacts on exports and to save the textiles industry from the adverse effects of implementation of Multi-Fibre Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Till December 31, 1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries had been governed by bilateral textile Agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (imports quota) in the bilateral agreements under the MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. As per agreement, these quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January, 2005.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (c) & (d) above.

Purchase of raw jute from Bangladesh

454. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kuri Lokhya Chasike bipannya kore Bangladesh thehe kancha pat amdani Korche Delhi" published in the 'Aajikal' dated 14th June, 2000 regarding purchase of raw jute from Bangladesh, affecting the jute industry and jute farmers in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) After raw jute was placed under Open General Licence, Indian Jute Industry has often imported raw jute particularly from Bangladesh when the required grade is not available in adequate quantity. Further high grades of raw jute (Grade 2 & 3) used for manufacturing speciality yarn are in short supply in the country and for this purpose they need to be imported from Bangladesh. Government have not so far approved any scheme of JCI to import raw jute from Bangladesh.